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Message Text

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ACTION NAS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 NSF-01 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /049 W
----------087741 111342Z /50
O 111334Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4163

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DEPT PASS NAS FOR MITCHELL

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, TPHY, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: PHYSICS: VISIT
OF SOVIET ASTROPHYSICS DELEGATION (01.0802)

REF: (A) MOSCOW 16014, (B) STATE 172829

1. ON JULY 11 KHARITONOV OF SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES INFORMED EMBOFF THAT ACADEMICIAN VELIKOV HAD DECIDED THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET US REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE THE SOVIET ASTROPHYSICS DELEGATION, WHICH THEREFORE PLANS TO ARRIVE IN US JULY 14 FOR THIRTY (30) DAYS. KHARITONOV STATED THAT ACADEMY HAS SENT A TELEX DIRECTLY TO MITCHELL ON THIS MATTER.

2. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT NAS RECEIVED NOTICE OF ONE WEEK POSTPONEMENT OF SOVIET DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL ON THE SAME DAY IN WHICH DELEGATION HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN EXPECTED TO ARRIVE. SOVIETS HAVE ALSO REDUCED PLANNED LENGTH OF VISIT FROM TWO TO ONE MONTH WHICH, COUPLED WITH JULY 14 ARRIVAL, WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD THE
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JOINT RESEARCH SEMINAR ON RELATIVISTIC ASTROPHYSICS, WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED AS THE CENTERPIECE OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION'S VISIT. FINALLY, SOVIETS ALSO REDUCED THE SIZE OF THE DELEGATION FROM PREVIOUSLYPLANNED TWELVE TO EIGHT INDIVIDUALS. SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN NO EXPLANATION FOR THESE ACTIONS. UNEXPLAINED

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LAST MINUTE ALTERATION OF PREVIOUS PROGRAM
WOULD AT ANY TIME BE CONSIDERED DISCOURTEOUS
TO US SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE EXPENDED
CONSIDERABLE EFFORT IN ARRANGING A MAJOR PROGRAM
FOR THE SOVIET DELEGATION. WE LEAVE IT TO THE
US PROGRAM ORGANIZERS TO DECIDE WHETHER THE
ABBREVIATED PROGRAM AND REPRESENTATION IMPOSED
BY THE SOVIETS ALLOWS SUFFICIENT POSSIBILITY
FOR MEANINGFUL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY; HOWEVER,
WE NOTE THAT IN PRESENT CLIMATE OF RELATIONS
SOVIET BEHAVIOR OFFERS AMPLE JUSTIFICATION
FOR TELLING THE SOVIETS TO STAY HOME. END
COMMENT.

3. PLEASE ADVISE. MATLOCK

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